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ornament and a silk tassel. (1) Their jewelry they buy from the 292

1. Compare Hermanns 3), page 33, 34.

Chinese.

Hair Style

The Fantzu wear their hair cut short; it is only at the parting 302 that many men still wear a small, thin braid that looks like a rat tail. Their method of cutting hair is still very primitive. They use an old sickle that is no longer good for cutting grass, and they sharpen it after a fashion on suitable stones found in the field. In contrast to the Chinese, the Fantzu, oddly enough, cut their hair from the top down. Only the sorcerers (bömi-bu) wear long hair, which they wrap in a head scarf. Their beards they pluck out, like the Chinese, with brass tweezers which they carry on their rosaries or on a chain around their necks. Only lamas occasionally wear beards. /14/

The women wear a very complicated coiffure. Little girls of six or seven have their hair dressed for the first time. The style consists of three rather thick braids that hang down from the parting and many smaller, thin braids on the sides, held together above the ears with a special ornament. The coiffure of the women is the same, except that they wear many more braids that hang far down and are held together with a complicated ornament. (1) Beside the two

1. A similar ornament of another nomad tribe is shown in Hermanns 3), illustration 51.

center braids, the woman wears 80 to 100 thin braids on either side. These braids must reach to the knees. Since a woman's hair is often not long enough or thick enough for this type of coiffure, she buys switches from Chinese traders.

For the rest, the Tibetans do not know very much about caring 515 for their bodies. They do not wash, and their bodies are covered with a black film of dirt. Since they also do not wash their furs, conditions are ideal for the propagation of body lice. The Fantzu wash only their mouth, face and hands, with cold water. They do not use a wash basin for this, but take a mouthful of water from a pottery jug, rinse out their mouths, then spit out the water into their hands and use it to wash their face and hands. After washing, they rub butter into their face. After eating, too, if they have

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515 remnants of butter on their fingers, they rub it into their faces, and it forms a protection against the strong mountain sun.

Ornaments and Weapons

301 Men and women lay much more stress on ornament than on bodily hygiene. The men wear one earring (1), either on the right or the

1. Rockhill 1), Plate 6.

left ear. It is made of silver and is usually set with a large red coral. The tent nomads also /15/ occasionally wear a large, ring-shaped ornament of silver set with corals, above one ear. This is not, however, characteristic of their costume, but belongs to the sedentary Fantzu who live farther south in the region of Labrang. Less frequently the men wear simple silver finger rings as earrings. A rosary is
788 301 usually worn around the neck as a chain. It is made of thick black disks of fragrant wood, or, what is simpler and cheaper, of small wooden beads. Sometimes they also wear their rosary (2) at their

2. Rockhill 1), Plates 35, 36.

belt or on the rope around their hips. The black chain around their necks is called tsä-nga in Tibetan, or su-chu in Chinese. On this chain hangs in front either a round disk resembling a Chinese chess figure or a large round amber or lacquered ball. On their thin rosaries they wear a square or circular silver box containing some kind of sacred relics, mostly pieces of cloth, amulets and often a Buddha picture, usually that of the Dalai-Lama or the Panchan-Lama. (3). The front of this box is always decorated with a coral

3. Rockhill 1), Plate 5.

in the center. The length of the sides or the diameter of this small amulet box can vary a great deal, but averages about 6 to 9 centimeters and 4 to 6 centimeters respectively. It is about 1 to 2 centimeters deep.

411 Apart from these actual ornaments, however, the men set great store by the decoration of their weapons. They always carry their weapons with them when they go any distance from their tents, even in peaceful times. Their weapons consist of a gun, a sword and a dagger. Until recently old-fashioned guns (1) were generally used,

1. Rockhill 1), Plate 23.